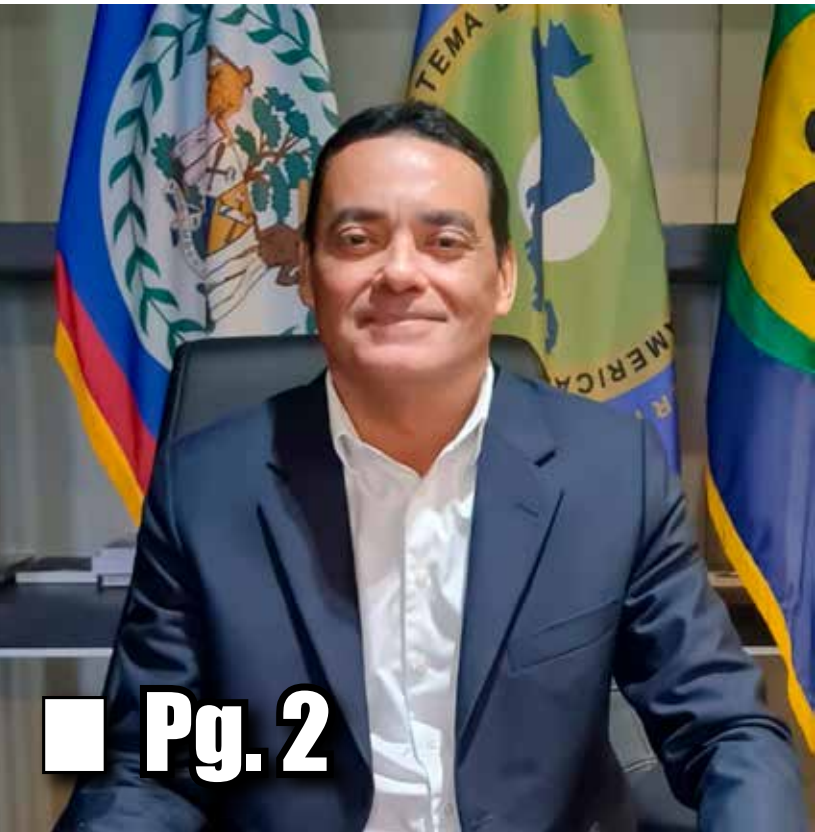




FONSECA RECOVERS

Successful Procedure at KHMH



■ Pg. 2

AGRIC SIZZLES 38K

Belize Can Feed Caribbean



■ Pg. 2

**New PUP Executive: Queen's Square | Bze-Mex Vaccination | Nurses Week Address
Aid in Anticipation of Drought | Belize - Cuba DRM | 4th WTO Policy Review**

Technology Management

DRONE REGULATIONS



■ Pg. 7

Belize Fund Awards



■ Pg. 8

Fisheries, Coastal Livelihoods & Blue Businesses

MoECST FUEL SUBSIDY

Quarter Million for School Buses

■ Pg. 6

For Commuting School Children

Covering 278 school bus runs and supporting 14,000+ students and teachers nationwide

BZ \$3.00 per gallon*

Retro from 13th April to end of school year

No changes to contracts



* Subsidy calculated using an average fuel rate of 7 mpg, applied to total route distances to standardise fuel estimates across routes and service frequencies.



This fuel subsidy will cost approximately BZ \$233,755.50 over 11 weeks and will be financed by the Ministry of Education's Recurrent Budget.

UDP CAN'T LEAD Themselves nor Belize

■ Pg. 5

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY | FELIZ DÍA DE LA MADRE

KHMH DELIVERS COMPLEX CARE



5 May 2026 — For more than three decades, the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority has stood as Belize’s national referral hospital, providing advanced medical care to thousands of patients across the country. While the institution has often faced criticism in the court of public opinion, recent developments are once again highlighting the expertise, dedication, and life-saving work being carried out by its medical professionals.

The successful medical procedure performed on Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Hon. Francis Fonseca, at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital earlier this week has placed renewed attention on the capabilities of Belize’s premier public healthcare institution. In an official statement, the Office of the Prime Minister confirmed that a procedure conducted on May 4 was successful and noted that Minister Fonseca would proceed on medical leave to recover.

For many Belizeans, the moment also served as a reminder that increasingly complex surgeries and specialized procedures can be performed right here at home by local professionals.

Since opening its doors on September 18, 1995, KHMH has served as the backbone of Belize’s public healthcare system. Named in honor of the late Dr. Karl Heusner, whose contribution to medicine and national service, the hospital has evolved into the country’s leading center for specialized medical treatment and emergency care.

Over the years, the institution has expanded beyond general medicine, developing highly specialized departments that now provide services in cardiology, oncology, dialysis, neurology, gastroenterology, physiotherapy, and other advanced medical fields. For procedures not yet fully available locally, KHMH continues to collaborate with international medical teams to support surgeries such as pediatric general surgery and spinal operations.

One area where the hospital has made notable progress is cardiac care. As of 2026, the cardiac team at KHMH has completed over a 110 open-heart surgeries since 2011,



an achievement that marks a major milestone for Belize’s healthcare system. These procedures, which were only possible overseas at staggering financial cost to patients and families, are now increasingly being done locally.

At the center of that advancement is Dr. Adrian Coye, Belize’s only cardiothoracic surgeon. Dr. Coye and the cardiac team have led several groundbreaking procedures at the hospital, demonstrating that Belize possesses the medical expertise necessary to handle high-risk cardiovascular cases.

Among the hospital’s notable successes was the high-risk mitral valve repair and replacement surgery completed in 2024. The operation, performed on Belizean patient Caryl Meighan, involved the replacement of a damaged heart valve through open-heart surgery. Today, Mr. Meighan, who has fully returned to work after recovering, is offering hope and reassurance to others facing similar medical challenges.

KHMH’s impact extends beyond adult cardiac care. Through partnerships such as the Rotary Gift of Life Program, the hospital has facilitated life-saving pediatric heart surgeries for children born with congenital heart defects. These collaborative efforts have allowed Belizean families access to specialized treatment without the burden of overseas medical expenses.

The hospital has also become a center for advanced orthopedic procedures, cardiac catheterization, spinal surgeries, and total hip replacements, further reinforcing its role as the country’s most comprehensive healthcare institution.

In addition to patient care, KHMH plays a critical educational role in Belize’s health sector. The hospital serves as a teaching and training facility for future healthcare professionals through its partnerships with the University of Belize Medical School, the



AGRIC SIZZLES 38K

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries has successfully held the 2026 National Agriculture and Trade Show from its opening on April 30 to the close on Sunday May 3, 2026. The extreme temperatures sizzled skin and scorched the Agric grounds attracted over 37,833 registered visitors, regional delegates, and guests. Overall attendance in-creased by approximately 6,000 from the previous year, though it remained slightly below the 2024 total of 41,000. It was a long weekend for the May 1 Labour Day so people were displayed their purchasing power by driving to Belmopan to enjoy themselves.

The NATS exhibited that the theme, “Advancing Smart Agriculture: Building a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Belizean Food System,” said it would. The entrepreneurs of Belize showed why they are the leading employers in Belize. The NATS featured a 13% increase in the number of concession stands, food stalls, and commercial booths compared to the previous four years.

The second annual Cabalgata or horse display on the streets of Belmopan leading to the show grounds was magnificent. It also ballooned, growing from 34 registered riders in 2025 to 156 participants in 2026, along with two musical bands and three floats. The Cabalgata serves as a tribute to Belize’s agricultural roots and the enduring relationship between communities and livestock.

Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries, acknowledges the dedicated staff of the Ministry; the Police

Continued on page 5



University of Belize School of Nursing, and St. John’s nursing program. Medical internship programs hosted at the hospital also help prepare newly qualified doctors for service within Belize’s healthcare system.

The institution further proved its national importance during major public health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and other mass casualty situations. As the national referral hospital, KHMH has consistently served as the frontline facility during moments of crisis.

Hospital administrators say the continued investment in medical technology has also strengthened patient outcomes. The facility now houses one of the highest-level CT scanning systems in the region, allowing for more accurate diagnostics and faster treatment planning.

While public criticism of KHMH has persisted over the years, the successful procedures and expanding specialized services continue to challenge the perception that advanced medical care must always be sought abroad, and the support of the Government of Belize. For many Belizeans, the growing capabilities of the hospital represent both national progress and a source of pride.

As the country reflects on another medical success story at KHMH, many are also extending their support to Minister Francis Fonseca during his recovery. We wish Hon. Fonseca a full and speedy recovery – EF

The Belize Times

THE BELIZE TIMES

The Truth Shall Make You Free

www.belize-times.bz

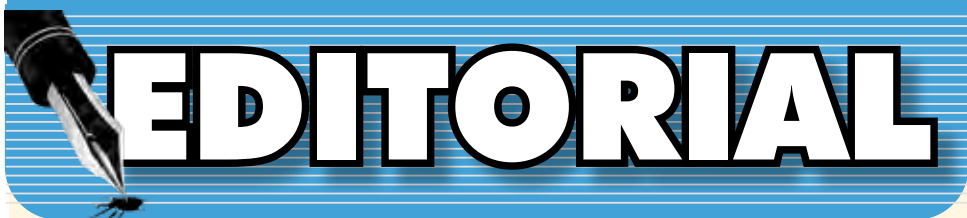
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EDITORIAL

PILLARS OF
A NATION

In 2026, Mother's Day falls on May 10th, which is also the 2nd Sunday. While we cherish our mothers year-round, we set aside this day to reflect on what makes them unique. Mother's Day reminds us to honour our mothers for their irreplaceable role, irrespective of background. From pregnancy to each milestone in her children's lives, a mother treasures these stories as her most precious memories. The bond may change as children grow, but her devotion endures. Take time to ask your mother about these cherished moments. Her stories are a vital part of your heritage. If your mother is no longer with you, honour the mothers who are present in your life. A mother's love and sacrifices shape us, and this day is a time to give thanks.

Since planBelize, women have been seen dominating in areas of Belize as never before. For example, women now make up 40 per cent of the total workforce, with 47 per cent of all females participating, and those numbers are growing. In comparison, 72 per cent of males participate in the 60 per cent of the workforce that is male. Invariably, males do the hard work while females do the service-type work. However, with improved job access through planBelize, along with better education and transportation, more women are joining the workforce. As a result, the notion that women stay at home as domestics is being relegated to social history.

These statistics highlight women's significant participation in Belize's economy: 30 per cent, or 500, of registered farmers are female, while approximately 20 per cent of farms are owned by women. Expanding further, women own 50% of all registered active business names in Belize—a share that continues to rise. In the BPO sector, a major employer with around 24,000 Belizeans in digital services, women and youth make up a large share of the workforce, with female employees often estimated at 80% or more.

These statistics clearly demonstrate a growing gender gap in Belize's education system: as educational levels increase, female participation out-runs that of males. While sixteen years of schooling are mandatory, data indicate that males are more likely than females to disengage from formal education once schooling is optional. In 2024, gross tertiary enrollment for females was 32.14%, compared to just 17.72% for males; women comprised 57.3% of all individuals with tertiary education. Additionally, women predominate in educational professions: 77% of primary school teachers are women, and over 90% of trained female teachers at this level were women in 2023. Women also make up approximately 64% of secondary school teachers and 55% of tertiary education faculty.

Women play a central role in Belize's tourism sector, accounting for nearly half of the workforce. While 36% of employed women in the country work in service and sales, including tourism, they also account for 11% of licensed tour guides and nearly 50% of business owners in the industry. With about 35,000 Belizeans employed in tourism, women form a significant share, underscoring their critical contribution to the sector.

Women are central to building Belize's future, yet despite progress in jobs and education, major gaps remain at home and in government. Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to affect many households. Proposed legislation aims to confront this urgent issue. Even a single case of domestic violence is unacceptable.

Let's focus our efforts on eradicating GBV by empowering and educating our young women and men and increasing their participation in the workforce. As Belizeans gain education in a dynamic business environment that fosters job creation and entrepreneurship, we can defeat crime and violence. This progress begins with mothers as the backbone of homes and society. Regardless of debates about gender roles, Belize needs optimal performance from everyone for collective progress. Todos ganamos—we all win—so let's not be distracted by the UDP and their media, who equate Belize's setbacks with their own success. The working majority holds great power, but more of us are needed in the workforce. With credit to our Mothers, the pillars of our nation, together, we will continue to win.

This 2026, Happy Mother's Day, Belize.

*en Español*PILARES DE
LA NACIÓN

En 2026, el Día de la Madre se celebra el 10 de mayo, que también es el segundo domingo del mes. Aunque apreciamos a nuestras madres durante todo el año, dedicamos este día a reflexionar sobre lo que las hace únicas. El Día de la Madre nos recuerda que debemos honrar a nuestras madres por su papel insustituible, independientemente de su origen. Desde el embarazo hasta cada hito en la vida de sus hijos, una madre atesora estas historias como sus recuerdos más preciados. El vínculo puede cambiar a medida que los hijos crecen, pero su devoción perdura. Tómase un momento para preguntarle a tu madre por esos momentos tan queridos. Sus historias son una parte vital de su herencia. Si tu madre ya no está contigo, honra a las madres que están presentes en tu vida. El amor y los sacrificios de una madre nos moldean, y este día es un momento para dar las gracias.

Desde planBelize, se ha visto a las mujeres destacar en distintos ámbitos de Belice como nunca antes. Por ejemplo, las mujeres constituyen ahora el 40 % de la población activa total, con una participación del 47 % entre todas las mujeres, y esas cifras van en aumento. En comparación, el 72 % de los hombres representan el 60 % de la población activa, que es masculina. Invariablemente, los hombres realizan el trabajo duro, mientras que las mujeres se dedican a tareas de servicio. Sin embargo, gracias a la mejora del acceso al empleo a través de planBelize, junto con una mejor educación y transporte, cada vez más mujeres se incorporan a la población activa. Como resultado, la idea del que las mujeres se quedan en casa como amas de casa está quedando relegada a la historia social.

Estas estadísticas ponen de relieve la importante participación de las mujeres en la economía de Belice: el 30 % (es decir, 500 de los agricultores registrados) son mujeres, mientras que aproximadamente el 20 % de las explotaciones agrícolas son propiedad de mujeres. Ampliando aún más el panorama, las mujeres son propietarias del 50 % de todas las empresas activas registradas en Belice, una proporción que sigue aumentando. En el sector de la externalización de procesos de negocios (BPO), uno de los principales empleadores con alrededor de 24 000 beliceños en servicios digitales, las mujeres y los jóvenes constituyen una gran parte de la mano de obra, y se estima que las empleadas suelen representar el 80 % o más.

Estas estadísticas demuestran claramente una creciente brecha de género en el sistema educativo de Belice: a medida que aumentan los niveles educativos, la participación femenina supera a la masculina. Aunque la escolarización es obligatoria durante dieciséis años, los datos indican que los hombres son más propensos que las mujeres a abandonar la educación formal una vez que la escolarización pasa a ser opcional. En 2024, la tasa bruta de matriculación en la educación terciaria para las mujeres fue del 32,14 %, frente al 17,72 % para los hombres; las mujeres representaban el 57,3 % de todas las personas con educación terciaria. Además, las mujeres predominan en las profesiones educativas: el 77 % de los docentes de primaria son mujeres y, en 2023, más del 90 % de las docentes formadas en este nivel eran mujeres. Las mujeres también representan aproximadamente el 64 % del profesorado de secundaria y el 55 % de la educación terciaria.

Las mujeres desempeñan un papel central en el sector turístico de Belice, ya que representan casi la mitad de la mano de obra. Si bien el 36 % de las mujeres empleadas en el país trabajan en el sector de los servicios y las ventas, incluido el turismo, también representan el 11 % de los guías turísticos titulados y casi el 50 % de los propietarios de negocios en la industria. Con unos 35 000 beliceños empleados en el turismo, las mujeres constituyen una parte significativa, lo que subraya su contribución fundamental al sector.

Las mujeres son fundamentales para construir el futuro de Belice; sin embargo, pese a los avances en el empleo y la educación, persisten importantes brechas en el ámbito doméstico y en el gobierno. La violencia de género (VG) sigue afectando a muchos hogares. La legislación propuesta tiene como objetivo abordar este problema urgente. Ni siquiera un solo caso de violencia doméstica es aceptable.

Centrémonos en erradicar la VGB empoderando y educando a nuestras jóvenes y jóvenes, y aumentando su participación en la población activa. A medida que los beliceños adquieran formación en un entorno empresarial dinámico que fomente la creación de empleo y el espíritu emprendedor, podremos derrotar a la delincuencia y la violencia. Este progreso comienza con las madres, columnas vertebrales de los hogares y de la sociedad. Independientemente de los debates sobre los roles de género, Belice necesita el máximo rendimiento de todos para el progreso colectivo. Todos ganamos, así que no nos dejemos distraer por el UDP y sus medios de comunicación, que equiparan los reveses de Belice con su propio éxito. La mayoría trabajadora tiene un gran poder, pero necesitamos más personas en la población activa. Con el reconocimiento a nuestras madres, los pilares de nuestra nación, seguiremos ganando juntos.

Este 2026, feliz Día de la Madre, Belice.



San Pedro “La Isla Bonita” THE WORKS CONTINUE ENDLESSLY



Mayor Wally and Team



Two-time Mayor Gualberto “Wally” Nunez has an extensive record of service to the people of San Pedro. We will all remember the “panades shop” styled bookkeeping that the SP UDP ran prior to Mayor Wally and his first administration. Misappropriation was the name of the sick game played by the past UDP. San Pedro is a tourist town and one of the major spots of its industry. Mayor Wally and team know this and have been at the fore of development on the island as it keeps its natural appeal while upgrading its position as a prime destination. The people of San Pedro are enthused about working with Mayor Wally and Central Government especially with BTB and Ministry of Health & Wellness. The Town Council and the San Pedranos join their Cayo Hicaco residents as they await the completion of the new Hospital.

The 2024–2027 team (PUP) serving the citizens of our San Pedro along with Mayor Wally are Deputy Mayor: Dianeli “Danni” Aranda, Adaly Ayuso, Ernesto Bardalez, Jose “Cas” Castellanos, Johnnia Duarte and Marina Graniel Kay.

Infrastructure

San Pedro is known for its waters, its sand, and its hospitable people. As more local and international tourists come to shore they want nice roads with no sand and no water potholes. They want to meet the people from the northern to the southernmost parts of the island and San Pedro Town. The Mayor and team are ensuring that with their paving its forward campaign and environmentally clean policy lead.



Day to Day Performance



Collaboration w/ Hon. Andre Perez & Central GoB



UDP CAN'T LEAD Themselves nor Belize

Anyone who thinks the UDP has any ability to manage the affairs of the nation has certainly not been paying attention to how that hapless handful is running their own party.

They have had 9 leaders in 6 years, and that's no exaggeration. (By the way, 96 played in Fi We Boledo this past Tuesday). But the more things change the more they remain the same, as they are simply recycling the same washed out, morally bankrupt leaders who were never sincere from the start.

It started with Commander Zero, Dean O himself, Master of Games, all glitter and no substance, who had somehow gotten their party to pass a resolution authorizing him to remain unchallenged as Party Leader until 2020 on a specific date of his own choosing.

Barrow was already a failed Prime Minister who would eventually go out publicly expressing sorrow and sympathy for whoever succeeded him as Prime Minister, because of the sorry state in which he was leaving the country's finance. That successor, or course, turned out to be PUP Leader John Briceño who quickly turned around Belize's economy which has since been one of the most robust in the region. But that's a story for another time.

As to their own party leadership, the now designated, significantly corrupt John Saldivar would eventually emerge at a February 2020 national convention as the man succeeding Dean Barrow. Only that Saldivar's name was already inextricable wrapped up in international scandal involving fraudster Lev Dermen and associates on trial in the United States. So, Saldivar's leadership would last less than 72 hours, as Barrow took back control.

Their party had to go to another leadership convention at which the petulant Patrick Faber was victorious. But that would only usher in another period of shame and scandal, as videos later surfaced depicting verbal and physical abuse of women and children. But that was not before the UDP suffered the most devastating beating at both the 2020 general elections and the 2021 municipal elections under Faber's leadership.

Faber was first removed as Opposition Leader and succeeded by Shyne Barrow. He held on to the Party Leader status and later regained the Opposition Leader position, only to be publicly embarrassed again by issues of domestic abuse and threat of court action. He was forced to completely relinquish leadership, in Parliament and in his Party.

Shyne Barrow fully replaced him as Leader after defeating Tracy Panton at a special convention. But if you thought the leadership struggle would end there, you were completely mistaken, as the internal war had only just began.

Long and short of the whole story is that the PUP with its undisputed Leader, John Briceño, dealt the UDP an even more devastating defeat in the 2024 municipal elections and the 2025 general elections.

So, Tracy Panton took over as Leader. But she has clearly not been cutting it at all, and under her rule the UDP is on the verge of becoming completely irrelevant. And now, internal pressure is building to have her removed and replaced with someone, anyone, other than Patrick Faber, as the ineradicable political cockroach, Shyne the Rapper, puts it.

It's anyone's guess where exactly the UDP's never ending saga of leadership craziness takes them next. But let's just sum things up for now by asking the most pertinent question here: If the UDP cannot lead themselves, how on earth can they lead the country? It's a rhetorical question, of course, because the answer is self-evident. They can't!

Thankfully, they are not needed, as Prime Minister John Briceño and the PUP continue to lead the nation and its economy though one of the most challenging global times, and doing so in remarkable fashion, particularly under the circumstances.

Leave the hapless UDP right where they are, and let's keep moving the country forward with the PUP, intact and on track.

AGRIC SIZZLES 38K

Continued from page 2
Department; the Farmers of the Year, Saulo Mesh, Yoalma Pocasangre, and Jesua Tzub; as well as all sponsors, supporters, and collaborators for contributing to the success of the event. The Ministry continues to emphasize the importance of innovative, sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food production in the face of climate challenges.

The Ministry and the farmers showed that Belize is definitely a veritable producer which can be a highly sustainable food provider for the Caribbean.

Belize Feeding the Caribbean

Belize's growing recognition as a leader in regional agriculture is something every Belizean should celebrate. The recent remarks by Guyana's Agriculture Minister and Chairman of the CARICOM Ministerial Task Force, Zulfikar Mustapha, highlighted the important role Belize is playing in strengthening food security across the Caribbean.

For years, Belize has been blessed

with fertile lands, hardworking farmers, and strong agricultural traditions. Today, those strengths are being recognized on a regional level as CARICOM works toward reducing the region's dependence on imported food. Belize's target of contributing over 2.2 million tonnes in food import replacement by 2030 shows that our country is not only thinking locally, but regionally as well.

This is an opportunity for Belize to continue investing in agriculture, supporting farmers, improving technology, and strengthening partnerships with neighboring countries like Guyana. Agriculture remains one of the pillars of our economy. With proper planning, it can also create more jobs, increase exports, and improve food affordability for Caribbean people.

The "25% by 2030" initiative reminds us that regional cooperation is necessary for long-term success. Belize has already proven that it can be a key contributor to that vision.

As Belize moves forward, we must continue to support our farmers and the agricultural sector, because the future of regional food security may very well depend on it. - EF

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 6/2026

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 12 August 2026.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 8 May 2026.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Wednesday, 13 May 2026.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

22 April 2026



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING FIRM)

Development of a Public Service Digital Reskilling Policy and a Comprehensive Change Management Framework

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize
Process ID: BL-L1039-P00049
Deadline: May 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project - Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project proceeds to procure consulting services ("the Services") from a qualified firm for the **"Development of a Public Service Digital Reskilling Policy and a Comprehensive Change Management Framework."**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested firms to access the extended version of this REOI online at <https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-development-of-a-public-service-digital-reskilling-policy-and-a-comprehensive-change-management-framework-consulting-firm-bl-11039-p00049-mof-2026/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) in accordance with the instructions provided in the extended version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref. "Consultancy Firm – Reskilling Policy - BL-L1039 - Name of Firm"

School Bus Fuel Subsidy

MoECST Implements Relief

Benefitting School Children’s Education

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology is moving forward to support school bus operators who have been impacted by rising fuel costs. Beginning immediately, and retroactive to 13th April 2026, the Ministry will provide a BZ \$3.00 per gallon of diesel subsidy to all school bus operators.

The Ministry calculated the subsidy using an average fuel rate of 7 miles per gallon, applied to total route distances to standardise fuel estimates across varying routes and service frequencies.

By easing fuel costs, this subsidy keeps buses on the road, students in school, and families confident in a reliable education system. (release)

Repeat for those who say that nothing is being allocated for the general public. Of course, fuel subsidy for school buses and commuter heading to work affects everyone but minions like Broaster cannot see that and will lie to the public saying nothing is being done. And for the record, when Leader of the Opposition John Briceño said that his government would provide the lowest possible fuel prices, that is what he meant. Today we do have fuel prices that because of scale and taxes which are budgeted for the people it seems to be high. Quick analysis will show you that without these taxes, the government would have to do some other move to collect the taxes. Growing the economy has been key to not implementing other taxes and keeping the GST at 12.5 per cent even when the IFIs were telling us to raise it.

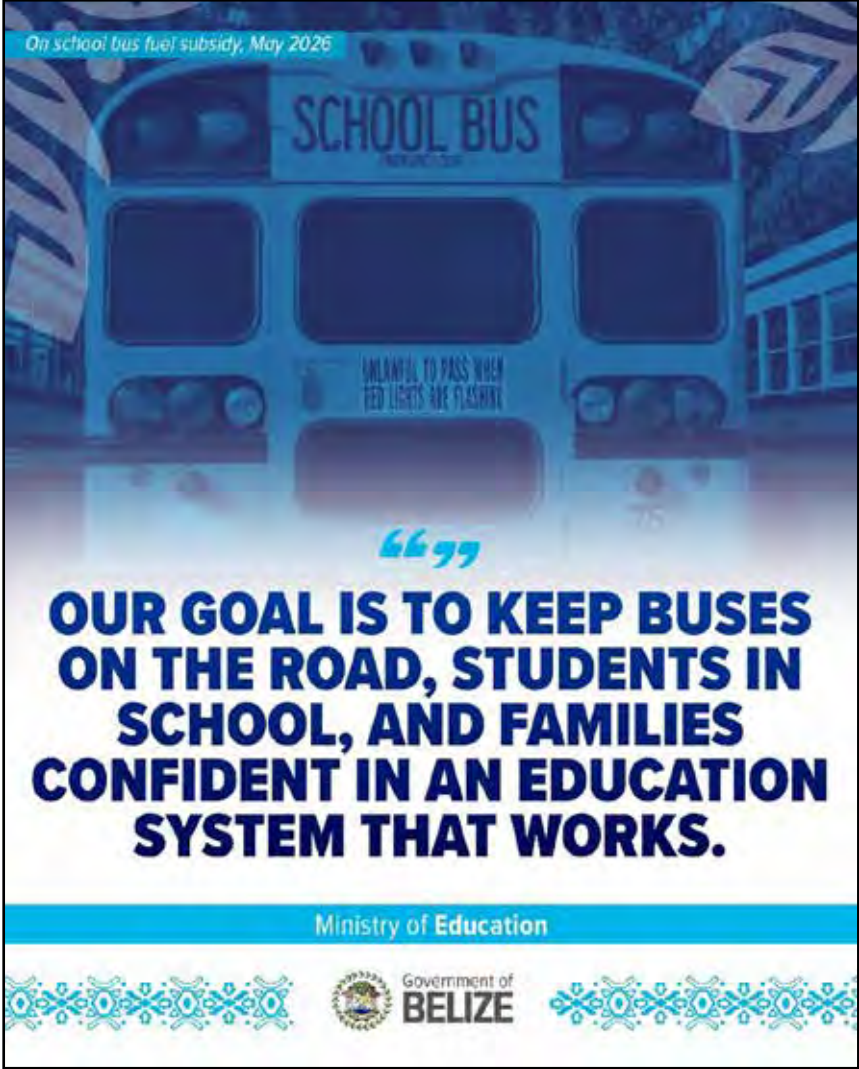
PM Briceño at his most recent address to the nation, “Belize, as a small, open economy, is vulnerable to the direct and indirect consequences of these

hostilities, as well as to other global and regional developments. As we all know, Belize is vulnerable to these shocks; chief among them is our access to fuel and the price we pay for it.

Most concerning is our vulnerability to inflation, where the money we earn buys less of what we need. Even the IMF has said that Belize imports our inflation; in other words, certain price increases are imposed upon us, and all we can do is to manage our response in a way that is achievable and affordable. Every Belizean is negatively impacted by inflation.

In the last two months, world oil prices have surged by 76 percent, from about 60 US dollars to 105 US dollars per barrel. All this considered, let me assure you that there is no immediate threat to our fuel supply. While no buyer can be protected from what we see on the news every day about fuel supply, Belize’s supply, currently estimated at some 5 million gallons per month, is so far assured.

Yes, there have been, and will continue to be, adjustments to the price at the pump and to the prices of certain products and services related to fuel costs. Let me address the issue of the price we pay at the pump. When the acquisition cost of fuel rises, that is to say, the price paid by PUMA and its suppliers, the excise tax collected by the government does NOT rise. This is a fixed amount. And this amount, the excise tax collected, has been significantly reduced by the government since the start of this crisis. In fact, the excise tax charged on regular gasoline has been cut by 68 cents, and the excise tax charged on diesel has been cut by \$1.55. These two tax reductions amount to 4.7 million dollars per month, or a projected 60 million dollars for this budget year. I assure you that if the acquisition cost for fuel continues to rise, the Cabinet will consider further adjustments.”





REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS)
PROJECT MANAGER, PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST, FINANCIAL SPECIALIST, ACCOUNTS CLERK, MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST AND SOCIAL SPECIALIST



Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Program to Improve Labor Force Participation and Employability in Belize
Process ID: BL-L1050
Duration: Twenty-four (24) Months
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: **June 24th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank for the execution of the “Program to Improve Labor Force Participation and Employability in Belize”, being implemented by the Ministry of Finance (MOF).

The MOF, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the Project financing to engage the contractual services of the following key positions, for the execution of the Program:

- Project Manager**
- Procurement Specialist**
- Financial Specialist**
- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist**
- Social Specialist**
- Accounts Clerk**

The MOF invites suitably qualified individuals to access the full versions of the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) and Terms of Reference for these six (6) positions at <http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/>, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full versions of the REOI.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – “Name of Position” – Program to Improve Labor Force Participation and Employability in Belize– [Name of Applicant]



Request for Bids (RFB)

Water Supply & Modernization Program
BL-L1043
Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well

- This RFB follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project publicized as of **13th April 2026**.
- Belize Water Services Limited has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of Water Supply & Modernization Program and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for **Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well**.
- The **Belize Water Services Limited** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well at the Dangriga WTP**. The delivery/construction period is **365 days from Start Date as specified in ITB 5.4 (k)**.
- The RFB will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank’s *Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15* and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Belize Water Services Limited, Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist** at rce@bwsll.com.bz
- Qualification requirements include: *copies of original documents defining the constitution, Power of Attorney, experience in works of similar nature and size for the past 5 years and other information as requested in the RFB document ITB 5.*
- A complete set of the bidding document in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below. The bidding document will be sent by email.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 p.m. 20th May 2026**. Electronic bidding “*shall not*” be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically at **2:15 p.m. 20th May 2026** in the presence of the bidders’ representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line.
- All bids “*shall*” be accompanied by a “*Bid Security*” of **3% of bid price in BZE Dollars or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency**.
- The address referred to above is: **Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist, Belize Water Services Limited, 7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.**

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

BELIZE MOVES TO REGULATE DRONES

May 6, 2026 - Belize is preparing to modernize how drones are used across the country. The Civil Aviation Department is pushing ahead with new regulations aimed at balancing innovation, public safety, and privacy concerns.

At a recent public consultation held at the SCA Auditorium, drone operators, business owners, hobbyists, farmers, and government representatives gathered to review a proposed 55-page operational directive that could shape the future of unmanned aerial systems in Belize.

The consultation reflects the growing role drones play. Once seen mainly as recreational gadgets, drones are increasingly becoming a part of everyday use, such as agriculture, photography, security, inspections, and commercial operations. But as the skies become busier, officials say stronger oversight is necessary to ensure safe and responsible use.

Director of Civil Aviation Nigel Carter explains that the purpose of the draft regulations is, "So we put out a drone operational directive last year. The operational directive is intended to regularize the use of drones in Belize." He goes on, "The purpose of the rule is two-fold: one, we need to protect society; we need to protect not just the operators of drones or those persons in aircraft, but also the general public." He clarified it is not to discourage drone activity, but to create clear standards that protect everyone involved.

Director Carter noted that concerns surrounding privacy, crowded events, and aircraft safety are becoming more significant as drone ownership expands nationwide. He stated, "We have to look at the privacy of persons, we have to look at the safety of persons operating a drone inside a concert, for instance, otherwise, somebody can get hurt."

The proposed regulations cover drone registration, operator licensing, operational guidelines, and incident reporting requirements. Current rules already require drones weighing more than 250 grams to be registered, while smaller drones equipped with cameras must also be documented.

According to Carter, "Your drone would have already cost you a thousand dollars, right, so sixty dollars for you to have that type of equipment, and for the recreational user, it is still more a luxury as opposed to a necessity." The registration and licensing fees remain relatively affordable, costing approximately thirty dollars each.

Many attendees agreed with the need for safer airspace, but several operators argued that the rules must also be practical and easier for ordinary users to understand.

Among those voicing concerns was Carlin Strite of Agrobotics, a company that has been using agricultural drones for several years to spray fertilizer on farms across Belize. Strite explained, "Drones provide a unique, specific use in agricultural spraying. There are some things that both ground rigs and crop dusters can't do, and the drone can fill that little niche, particularly when the ground is muddy."

Strite emphasized that drones have become an important tool during the rainy season, especially in areas where traditional farming equipment struggles to operate efficiently.

However, he acknowledged frustrations, "The biggest problem we have had with the rules is that they're constantly changing, and they have never come out with an exact set that we need to adhere to," he stressed, "They need to standardize it."

The consultation also highlighted the growing organization among drone users themselves. The Belize National UAS Industry Association has been advocating for greater dialogue with regulators and a more collaborative approach to policy development.

Association President Will Moreno, "I do believe today's consultation was good. We do want safe airspace, and that is basically what we are trying to push." Moreno noted that many drone users were previously submitting concerns individually without receiving responses, prompting operators to organize collectively.

He added that while the association supports regulation, operators want the language simplified, "It needs to be something where it is easy to understand. A lot of other countries even go into diagrams to show what they are looking for."

Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Be-

lize Electricity Limited, the Belize Coast Guard, videographers, and farmers also attended the consultation, demonstrating how widely drone technology is now integrated into Belizean industries.

Director Carter confirmed that the Civil Aviation Department will continue accepting written feedback for an additional two weeks before finalizing its recommendations.

"We want structured comments, we want to know what article of the operational directive is your pain point, and what recommendations you have for resolving it," he said

As Belize adapts to rapidly evolving technology, officials say the goal remains clear: allowing innovation to grow while ensuring the country's airspace remains safe, secure, and respectful of citizens' privacy. -EF



Happy Mother's Day

From Party Leader PM John Briceño, DPM Cordel Hyde, Chairman Usher, the PUP National Executive and the rest of the PUP Family

Belize Fund Awards BZ\$643,000 TO STRENGTHENS FISHERIES, COASTAL LIVELIHOODS AND BLUE BUSINESSES

(Dangriga, April 29, 2026) – The Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (Belize Fund) hosted its 4th Awards Ceremony today in Dangriga, announcing BZ\$643,292.12 in new grant funding for four projects that will strengthen sustainable fisheries, support coastal livelihoods, and grow Belize’s blue economy. The awards reflect the Belize Fund’s commitment to ensuring that long-term



Celebrating Mothers Everywhere

Dear Editor,
As Mother’s Day approaches, I would like to wish all mothers across Belize and around the world a Happy Mother’s Day. Mothers are the foundation of our homes, communities, and the backbone of a nation. Their sacrifices, strength, love, and guidance shape generations and inspire us daily.

To mothers who work tirelessly to provide for their families, those balancing careers and parenthood, even grandmothers and guardians who step into a motherly role, each deserves recognition and appreciation. Too often, their efforts go unnoticed, yet their impact is immeasurable.

Though some would say Mother’s Day is every day. I believe this day, Mother’s Day, is more than flowers and gifts; it is for us all to stop and be thankful for mothers. It is a reminder to honor the women who nurture, encourage, and stand beside us through every challenge. Their patience and unconditional love help build stronger families and communities.

I encourage everyone to take a moment this Mother’s Day to say “thank you” to the mothers in their lives. Whether through kind words, spending time together, or simple acts of appreciation, let us make them feel valued not only on Mother’s Day, but every day.

To all mothers, may your day be filled with love, joy, and the appreciation you truly deserve. Happy Mother’s Day!

Sincerely,
A Grateful Belizean



conservation financing delivers practical benefits for Belizean communities while helping to safeguard the country’s marine and coastal resources.

The newly approved projects are:

- Barranco Botanics (BZ\$43,296.92) – Expanding a coastal enterprise producing marine-based soaps using 100% Belizean ingredients, creating jobs and increasing demand for locally farmed seaweed.
- Wabafu Fishermen Association (BZ\$50,000.00) – Strengthening

governance, financial management, and sustainable fishing practices to support stronger livelihoods for fishers.

- Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (BZ\$500,000.00) – Advancing fisheries management through enforcement, education, and data-driven decision-making to promote sustainable resource use.
- Yugadan Fisherfolks Association Limited (BZ\$49,995.20) – Strengthening fisher livelihoods in Hopkins through skills training, organizational develop-

ment, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

“Sustainable financing is essential to ensuring Belize can continue protecting its globally significant marine ecosystems while supporting the people and communities who depend on them,” said Dr. Leandra Cho-Ricketts, Executive Director of the Belize Fund.

Since its establishment, the Belize Fund has continued to channel strategic financing into community organizations, fishers, and local enterprise for projects that align with national conservation commitments and contribute to a resilient blue economy. (release)

The Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (Belize Fund) is a private conservation trust fund, established in March 2022 to support conservation and climate change adaptation activities in Belize, with a focus on marine resources. Created as a sustainable financing mechanism, the Fund manages the conservation payments from the Belize Blue Bonds. In partnership with the Government of Belize, the Belize Fund finances and supports initiatives that advance the conservation commitments under the Blue Bonds agreement to ensure a sustainable future for Belize.

Celebrating the Heart of Every Family

In every home and across every community, mothers are the quiet force that sustain us.

Through sacrifice, through tenderness and resilience, their presence shapes lives, builds futures and strengthens communities.

Their influence is enduring
Their love, immeasurable.

On this Mother’s Day, we celebrate you.

Happy Mother’s Day

Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs

Rural Transformation – MoU – Belize Water Services



Collaborative Water Security Rural and Urban Communities Across Belize.

Recently, the Ministry of Rural Transformation signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Belize Water Services Limited, establishing a partnership of technical cooperation to ensure both rural

and urban communities have access to safe, reliable water.

As a direct result of this agreement, our Rig Crew is on the ground at the BWS production site in Forest Home, Toledo, drilling a new production well to enhance the area's water source. This collaboration marks a major step forward in our shared

mission to ensure every household across the country has access to not only a consistent water supply, but reliable, potable water. (post)

This is another example of how with collaboration progress can come about. Water is immensely important and effective coming together benefits the people.

New Executive Committee Swearing-in QUEEN'S SQUARE, BELIZE CITY



Chairperson, Maxine McKay



This is Caye Caulker, or Belize in slow motion on the Caribbean side



A small, bohemian island in Belize, Caye Caulker went from a haven for mixed-race fishermen to a backpacker retreat in the 1970s and 80s. Nestled in the heart of the world's second-largest barrier reef, it now attracts divers, couples, and families drawn to its turquoise waters and peaceful atmosphere. Marked by Hurricane Hattie in 1961, which created The Split channel, Caye Caulker has long developed in the south, which remains the heart of the action.

The north, which has remained wild, is now being transformed. Between mangroves and lagoons, this isolated area is experiencing a discreet hotel boom and attracting a clientele seeking tranquillity, as evidenced by the Blu Zen where I had the pleasure of staying.

Here, everything invites you to slow down. Days drift by with swims, moments by the pool, and contemplation of the endless sea.

Despite its isolation, the area offers quick access to the coral reef, just a few minutes away by boat, while a shuttle provides easy access to the much more lively south. An island where the pace slows.

Cycling remains the best way to explore the island. No cars, just a few sandy roads and golf carts.

At the end of the day, head to Bliss Beach, the heart of a brand-new electro-lounge project, for spectacular sunsets.

For a more festive atmosphere, head south to The Split. Bars, restaurants, and local spots are concentrated there, especially on Front Street, where you can enjoy excellent jerk chicken at Chef Kareem's.

Finally, it's hard to leave Caye Caulker without taking at least one boat trip. Snorkeling or scuba diving allows you to discover the exceptional richness of the coral reef, a true natural treasure of Belize.

A perfect balance between adventure and relaxation!

See all the pictures and original story at <https://bit.ly/4uFwu4y>.

BOLEDO HAS BEEN
PLAYED FOR NEARLY

100
YEARS!

CONTINUE THE TRADITION,
BUY YOUR BOLEDO TICKET TODAY



BELIZE GOVERNMENT
LOTTERIES LTD.

Players must be 18 years or older. Play responsibly.

Government of Belize and PACT launch
BZ\$8 MILLION PROJECT
Strengthen Coastal Resilience



Dangriga Town, Belize, May 7, 2026 -The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) and the Government of Belize officially launched the Enhancing the Resilience of Belize’s Coastal Communities to Climate Change Impacts (Coastal) project with a ceremony at the Multipurpose Park in Dangriga Town. Financed through the Adaptation Fund’s Regular Country Allocation funding window, this BZ\$8 million program will strengthen Belize’s capacity to protect 27 coastal communities across Belize, Corozal, Stann Creek, and Toledo districts, directly impacting more than 117,000 people.

The project will also improve data collection and data-driven decision-making to build national climate resilience. It will strengthen the institutional capacity of the project’s six executing entities: the National Climate Change Office, National Hydrological Service, National Meteorological Service, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, and the Dangriga Town Council.

The ceremony included remarks from Hon. Andre Perez, Minister of Blue Economy and Marine Conserva-

tion; Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh, Area Representative for Dangriga (one of the beneficiary communities); Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation (Belize’s Designated Authority); His Worship Robert Mariano, Mayor of Dangriga Town; and Mr. Abil Castañeda, PACT’s Executive Director. A project overview was presented by Dr. Juana Garcia-Saqui, Adaptation Fund Projects Coordinator for PACT. Also present at the ceremony were Hon. Henry Charles Usher and Mr. Rolando Zetina, Minister and CEO of the Ministry of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, re-

spectively, along with heads of the executing entities.

The Coastal Project is PACT’s third project with the Adaptation Fund, reflecting the organization’s expanding role as a trusted partner for climate adaptation in Belize. (more on Page 11)





Our National Telecom

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

High School & Sixth Form Applications
NOW AVAILABLE
Learn more at www.livedigi.com/scholarship



APPLY TODAY

DEADLINE: **FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2026**

GO FURTHER!



**The Ministry of the Public Service and
Disaster Risk Management
salutes all Belizean workers for your
dedication, resilience, and service.
Your efforts continue to build a stronger,
safer, more resilient Belize.
Thank you for all that you do.**



Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.



Government of Belize and PACT
Official launch
Enhancing the Resilience of Belize's
Coastal Communities to Climate
Dangriga, May 7, 2026



FACTS
PROJECT OVERVIEW. .
Project Title: Enhancing the Resilience of Belize's Coastal Communities to Climate Change Impacts
Total Funding: US\$ 4 million (Large Grant from the Adaptation Fund?)
. Duration: 4 years (Expected start: April 2026)
. Lead Implementing Entity: Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT)
. National Designated Authority: Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET)
. Executing Entities: National Climate Change Office (NCCO), Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute (CZMAI), National Meteorological Service, (NMS), National Hydrological Service (NHS), Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing (MIDH)

PROJECT PURPOSE
The project Enhancing the Resilience of Belize's Coastal Communities to Climate Change Impacts supports national efforts to strengthen the resilience of Belize's coastal communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure against the growing impacts of climate change. Through integrated planning, monitoring, coastal protection, and public engagement, the initiative aims to improve adaptive capacity and reduce climate-related risks in vulnerable coastal areas across Belize.

COMMUNITIES IMPACTED
27 Coastal Communities | Corozal, Belize, Stann Creek, and Toledo Districts
Direct Beneficiaries: 117, 000 + residents

KEY COMPONENTS
1. Improving Coastal Land Use
- Promoting resilient habitation and sustainable sectoral activities in coastal zones.
2. Coastal Vulnerability Monitoring
- Strengthening monitoring systems to better understand and respond to climate risks affecting coastal communities.
3. Coastal Protection & Adaptation Responses
- Supporting adaptation measures and protection strategies for high-risk coastal areas.
4. Awareness & Capacity Building
- Raising awareness, sharing knowledge, and strengthening institutional and community capacity for climate resilience.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

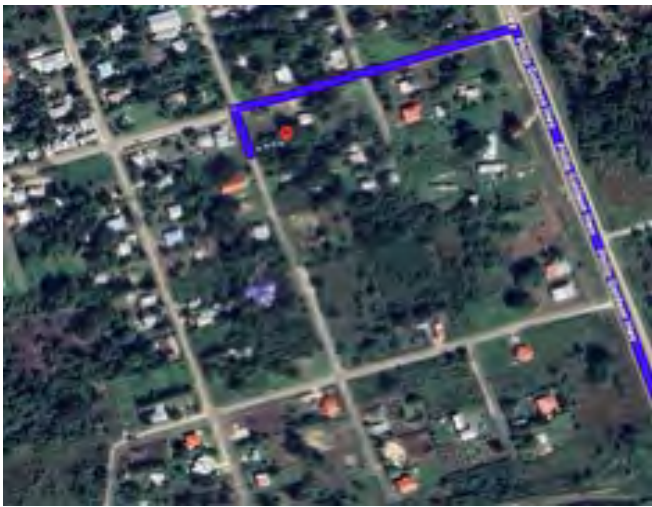
BY ORDER OF THE CHARGEЕ HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED, a Licensed Public Auctioneer will sell on site the following property at the time as listed.

At Parcel 786 Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District on Friday, May 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel 786, Block 4 in the Carmelita Registration Section situated in Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District comprising a large lot of 1044.3 square meters located close to the Philip Goldson Highway in a very good residential area, the freehold property of **RAHEEM CLIFFORD NICHOLAS**.

DATED this 4th day of May 2026



All sales are strictly cash and deemed final. For more information contact:

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED
1 HYDE'S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
Phone: (501) 280-5644
Fax: (501) 223-0738
E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hrcuforeclosure/>

2026 CELEBRATIONS

HON KAREEM MUSA & THE CARIBBEAN SHORES COMMITTEE INVITE YOU TO

Mother's Day In The Shores

SATURDAY MAY 9TH
2PM TO 6PM

ROCK PARK
PRINCESS MARGARET DRIVE
BELIZE CITY

FOOD, DRINKS, MUSIC, PRIZES

Next Saturday May 9th

MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

HOSTED BY HON. GILROY USHER FOR THE PORT LOYOLA CONSTITUENCY

INVITES ALL MOTHERS OF PORT LOYOLA

5 SPECIAL RAFFLE- FOR THE FIRST 60 EARLY BIRDS TO BE SEATED.

MUSIC | ENTERTAINMENT | AMAZING PRIZES!

LOCATION: BASKETBALL COURT COR. FABERS RD AND C.A BLVD

DATE: MAY 9TH 2026

TIME: 2:00PM - 6:00PM

AMAZING PRIZES INCLUDE:

- 1 STOVE
- 5 FANS
- 5 IRONS
- 5 BLENDERS
- 5 GROCERY BAGS
- 5 CASES OF SOFT DRINKS

5 X \$100.00 AND MUCH MORE!

TICKET NO.

Happy Mother's Day from Hon. Gilroy Usher- always for the people.

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR PABLO GAVICH, HON. OSCAR MIRA, COUNCILORS AND THE BELMOPAN CITY COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO A

HAPPY Mother's DAY EVENT

SUNDAY MAY 10TH, 2026

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SIR GEORGE BROWN FIELD

AN EVENING FILLED WITH

- Music
- Prizes & Giveaways
- Food & Drinks

FREE FOR MOTHERS OF BELMOPAN

Moving Belmopan Forward

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN HON. HENRY CHARLES USHER AND THE PUP FORT GEORGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR

Mother's Day Celebration!

SATURDAY MAY 9TH 2PM-6PM

SAINT CATHERINE ACADEMY
MERCY CENTER

RAFFLES, DRINKS, FOOD AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!

FORT GEORGE
Forever Blessing

10TH MAY

HON. ALEX BALONA
CAYO CENTRAL
MINISTER OF STATE, AGRICULTURE
PRESENTS

Mother's Day Program

TIME: 3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

VENUE: SANTA ELENA SPORTS COMPLEX

GRAND PRIZES INCLUDE
A REFRIGERATOR | A SOFA SET | A WASHING MACHINE | A MICROWAVE

IN COLLABORATION
Councilor Aaron Mai
MAYORAL CANDIDATE 2027

MICHO CHEBAT
CAYO NORTH
KEEPING PROMISES

MOTHER'S DAY Celebration

FRIDAY
8TH MAY, 2026
6:30 PM

MUSIC, FOOD, PRIZES & SURPRISES

BULLET TREE VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

HOSTED BY HON. MICHEL CHEBAT, AREA REPRESENTATIVE, CAYO NORTH

MICHO CHEBAT
CAYO NORTH
KEEPING PROMISES

MOTHER'S DAY Celebration

SATURDAY
9TH MAY, 2026
6:30 PM

MUSIC, FOOD, PRIZES & SURPRISES

VICTOR GALVEZ STADIUM

HOSTED BY HON. MICHEL CHEBAT, AREA REPRESENTATIVE, CAYO NORTH

8TH MAY 5PM

Mother's Day MASS & giveaways

at the Central Park

Entertainment follows with THE AYALAS, JAYDA TILLET and CINDY the Violinist

Dance with One Love Band

Join us as we honor and celebrate our beloved mothers, the heart and strength of our community.

BENQUE
VIEJO TOWN COUNCIL

SAT. MAY 9, 2026

MOTHER'S DAY Celebration

7 PM TO 3 AM

MARIMBA CONCERT | GOLDEN PAWS

FREE ENTRY | FREE DRINKS | GIFTS

CANCHA MARSHALLECK, BENQUE VIEJO

SPONSORED BY

- GODOY'S TRUCKING
- BISMILLAH STORES
- CONSUL
- PRINTING
- RECINAS IMPORTS
- MOPAN RESTAURANT

MR. PALACIO MISS LETICIA CASTELLANOS MR. ROB TRUJILLO MR. AMIR PULLIDO

PUP FREETOWN
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FREETOWN

MOTHER'S DAY Event

Hon. Francis Fonseca
and the PUP Freetown Executive Committee invite you to join us on

DATE: MAY 9TH 2026

TIME: 1PM - 5PM

VENUE: House of Culture Compound
Dame Minita Gordon Drive

FEATURING: Youth Connection Band

THE BUS SCHEDULES

1st Run: Fiesta Park - 11:15 AM and Assembly of God - 11:30 AM

2nd Run: Fiesta Park: 12:00 PM
Assembly of God: 12:30 PM | 2:00 PM AND 2:30 PM

Belize Medical Associates will be available to assist with NHI registration during the event.

THIS EVENT IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR FREETOWN MOTHERS.

Shea
LEADERSHIP THAT DELIVERS!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE 3RD ANNUAL

MOTHER'S DAY BANQUET

Honoring the Love, Strength and Dedication of Every Mother

LOTS OF GIVEAWAYS

ENTERTAINMENT FOR EVERYONE!

SUNDAY MAY 10TH 2026

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER AUDITORIUM

STARTS AT 2:00 P.M.

HOSTED BY Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez
AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR COROZAL BAY

Come celebrate, be pampered and enjoy an afternoon just for you!

Thea Garcia Ramirez

PUP

PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY

'SEGUIMOS MUY BIEN'

UN-Belize and Government of Belize Convene 7th Joint National Steering Committee Meeting Advancing Development Priorities for 2026 and Beyond

Belize, 7 May 2026 - The Government of Belize and the United Nations Country Team convened the Joint National Steering Committee Meeting, co-chaired by H.E. Amalia Mai, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and Mr. Raul Salazar, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Belize and El Salvador.

The Joint National Steering Committee serves as the primary platform for strategic dialogue and coordination between the Government of Belize and the United Nations to advance the implementation of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2022–2026, while also informing the next cycle of cooperation for 2027–2031.

The meeting brought together Chief Executive Officers, senior Government officials, Heads of United Nations Agencies, Funds, and Programmes to review progress, exchange perspectives, and align priorities for 2026 and beyond.

During the session, the United Nations presented key highlights from the 2025 United Nations Country Results Report, outlining collective progress achieved under the current Country Implementation Plan. The discussion also provided an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned and areas requiring further attention as the current cycle approaches completion.

The Government of Belize presented its national priorities under Plan Belize 2.0 – the Medium-Term Development Strategy (2026–2030), setting the direction for development planning over the

coming years. This was complemented by the presentation of the United Nations Country Implementation Plan 2026 and updates on the development of the MSDCF 2027–2031.

The dialogue focused on strengthening alignment between national priorities and United Nations support, enhancing coordination mechanisms, and identifying practical approaches to accelerate results in key development areas.

In this regard, H.E. Amalia Mai reiterated that “our partnership with the UN remains so important, as it provides not only technical support, but also a platform for coordinated action, policy dialogue and resource mobilization.”

Mr. Raul Salazar, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Belize and El Salvador, emphasized the importance of continued partnership, noting that “the support of the United Nations must continue to translate into tangible and measurable results aligned with Belize’s national development priorities.”

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding of the importance of maintaining strong collaboration, ensuring clarity of priorities, and continuing to advance joint efforts toward sustainable development outcomes for Belize.

The Government of Belize and the United Nations in Belize reaffirm their commitment to working in partnership to support the achievement of national development goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. (release)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Consultancy Services to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize – BL-L1041

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize (SAIB)
Process ID: BL-L1041 – P00030
Deadline: May 20th, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the – “Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize (SAIB)” being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to procure the services of an Individual Consultant to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize (BL-L1041).

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individuals to access the full version of this request for expression of interest online at <https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

Sr. Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref: **Consultancy Service to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the SAIB Program (BL-L1041) –**
Your name

MoWH - PAHO ICT Equipment to Strengthen Maternal and Child Health Services

Belize City, Belize, May 06, 2026 (PAHO) - Through the project, “Strengthening the EMTCT Strategy with Maternal and Child Health Services” (MCH), the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) received **ten all-in-one desktop computers and one video projector** to strengthen maternal and child health services.

Funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the project supported efforts to advance progress toward eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B, and Chagas disease across the Caribbean.

The donated equipment will directly support frontline health services by improving data management, strengthening surveillance,



and enhancing laboratory coordination, and help healthcare providers deliver more efficient, timely, and integrated care for mothers and children.

By strengthening these critical areas, progress can be sustained in countries like Belize, which have already achieved Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT) validation, while helping other countries move closer to this milestone.

The handover underscored the importance of partnership and shared commitment to ending preventable transmission of diseases and securing a healthier future for all. (release)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Consultancy Services to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the Program for Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize – BL-L1039

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize
Process ID: BL-L1039 – P00052
Deadline: May 29th, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the – “Program for Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize (DIBE)” being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to procure the services of an Individual Consultant to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the Program for Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize.

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individuals to access the full version of this request for expression of interest online at <https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

Sr. Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Consultancy Service to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the DIBE Program (BL-L1039) –** Your name

Belize and Mexico Strengthen Cross-Border Cooperation

“Your decision makes a difference: Immunization for all.”



Health authorities from Belize and Mexico came together for a Binational Vaccination Week in the Americas ceremony on April 29, 2026, reaffirming their shared commitment to protecting communities, especially those along shared borders, through expanded immunization coverage and strengthened public health cooperation.

The ceremony formed part of the 2026 Vaccination Week in the Americas initiative, held in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) under the theme, “Your decision makes a difference: Immunization for all.”

Representatives from both countries highlighted the importance of vaccines in preventing the spread of diseases such as Measles, Polio, and Whooping Cough, while emphasizing the need to reach underserved and mobile populations in border communities.

During the event, Belizean and Mexican health officials pledged

- continued collaboration to:
- Increase childhood and routine immunization coverage
 - Strengthen cross-border disease surveillance and response systems
 - Promote public awareness and confidence in vaccines
 - Improve access to immunization services in vulnerable communities
 - Support regional efforts to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases in the Americas

Officials underscored that immunization remains one of the most effective public health measures for saving lives and preventing outbreaks. The ceremony also reflected the strong partnership between Belize and Mexico in advancing regional health security and ensuring equitable access to healthcare services.

Vaccination Week in the Americas is an annual regional initiative being observed this year from April 25 to May 2, mobilizing countries across the hemisphere to promote the benefits of vaccines and improve immunization access for all populations.



HAPPY NURSES WEEK 2026

May 6 – May 12

Message
Hon. Kevin Bernard
Minister of Health & Wellness
“Our Nurses, Our Future.
Empowered Nurses Save Lives”

Greetings to all our nurses across Belize. It is a privilege to stand before you as we celebrate Nurses Week 2026. Today, we honor you, the women and men who form the backbone of our health system. On a personal note, and on behalf of the Government of Belize and the Ministry of Health and Wellness, I extend heartfelt greetings and deep appreciation to every nurse serving in our hospitals, clinics, and communities nationwide.

We cannot say it enough. Nurses are the heartbeat of healthcare. Nurses provide care from birth to death, and every stage in between. You are the first to comfort, the last to give up, and, often the ones who hold families together in their most vulnerable moments. In Belize, with our small, close-knit communities,

Your role carries even greater meaning. You are recognized and trusted to deliver care with integrity and compassion and to advocate for patients’ dignity. This year’s International Council of Nurses theme is “Our Nurses, Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives”. It so captures what my government believes. Empowerment is an action word, a commitment to provide the means for nurses to continue to positively impact the health of our nation. This includes providing professional support and opportunities to grow within the tremendous scope of the nursing profession. When nurses are empowered, lives are saved. Over the past year, the Government of Belize has taken deliberate steps to support and strengthen the nursing profession.

We have forged partnerships and expanded opportunities for advanced training and continuing education at the master’s level for public health nurses, certified registered nurses anes-

thetists, and nurse administrators. Similarly, plans are underway to train a cohort of psychiatric nurse practitioners. This investment in nurses cost just under \$2 million, \$1,975,000 to be exact. Our recently implemented retention package, a phased \$4 million value, complements the investment in training and acknowledges the tremendous value nurses bring to our nation. These investments, totaling \$5,975,000 are made to ensure that Belize’s nurses are equipped and available to meet Belize’s healthcare demands. We also recognize the global challenges facing the nursing workforce today. Workforce shortages, rising patient complexity, rapid technological change, and the ethical dilemmas of the digital age. Belize is not immune to these pressures, but what sets us apart is the strength, resilience, and professionalism of our nurses. You have shown time and time again that you can rise for any challenge, whether during public health emergencies, in resource-limited settings, or in the daily demands of patient care. The Ministry remains committed to empowering you with the tools, training, and support you need to continue delivering safe, evidence-informed, compassionate, and person-centered care. Because when nurses are empowered, communities thrive. When nurses are empowered, families feel safe. And when nurses are empowered, lives are saved and Belize is stronger.

To every nurse serving Belize, thank you. Thank you for your service, the sacrifice, the professionalism and your unwavering dedication to the people of this country. You are essential. You are valid. And you are the future of Belize’s health system. I wish you all a meaningful and blessed Nurses Week.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)
(CONSULTING FIRM)

Consultancy service for Change Management Strategy and Action Plan for the Vital Statistics Unit

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize
Process ID: BL-L1039 – P00051
Duration: Twelve (12) Months
Deadline: May 26, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize project.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to procure the services of a Consulting Firm to undertake the “Consultancy service for Change Management Strategy and Action Plan for the Vital Statistics Unit”.

The Ministry of Finance invites interested firms to access the full version of this REOI online at <https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Officer
Ministry of Finance
3rd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR FOR THE NATIONAL E-GOVERNMENT PORTAL DEVELOPMENT – MINISTRY OF E-GOVERNANCE (MoEG)

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize
Process ID: BL-L1039 – P00050
Duration: Twelve (12) Months
Duty Station: Hybrid (Remote and on-site Ministry of E-Governance (MoEG), Belmopan, Belize)
Deadline: May 29, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the “Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize project”, being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage the contractual services of a “Technical Coordinator for the National e-Government Portal Development” for the Ministry of Ministry of E-Governance (MoEG).

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Officer
Ministry of Finance
3rd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



BELIZE - CUBA

ADVANCING COOPERATION IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, met with a high-level delegation from Cuba’s Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment (CITMA) as part of an official visit to Belize from May 1 to 5, 2026.

The meeting, held at NEMO headquarters in Belmopan, built on ongoing collaboration between NEMO and CITMA and focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in disaster risk management, climate resilience, and technical exchange.

Key areas of discussion included the development of a potential support programme between Belize and Cuba,



as well as an exchange programme to enhance technical cooperation between institutions. Both sides committed to reviewing a draft concept note for a joint project and explored the possibility of a Belizean delegation visiting Cuba to further advance collaboration.

Discussions also highlighted the sharing of expertise in early warning systems, hazard monitoring, and disaster preparedness. The parties explored opportunities to standardize hazard analysis and risk assessments at the municipal level, strengthen vulnerability assessments, and integrate climate change considerations into future planning and development frameworks.

In addition, the potential deployment of Cuban technical experts to support training, capacity building, and knowledge exchange in Belize was discussed. The meeting also included an exchange of information on NEMO’s national work programme and ongoing disaster risk management initiatives.

Minister Usher emphasized that such partnerships are vital in strengthening Belize’s national resilience and improving preparedness and response capabilities across all levels.

The Cuban delegation was led by First Deputy Minister Rudy Montero Mata and included Bárbara Calcedo Cuba. Director General of Economics



and Human Resources; Ceferino Julio Santarén Suárez, Director of the Office of International Funds and Projects Management; and Pedro Julio Ruiz

Hernández, Specialist in the Directorate of International Relations.

Also present at the meeting were Mr. Rolando Zetina, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, and Mr. Daniel Mendez, National Emergency Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO).

The engagement reaffirmed the strong and longstanding relationship between Belize and Cuba, with both sides expressing commitment to deepening cooperation in areas critical to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. (release)



CABEI

Central American
Bank for
Economic
Integration

Request for Proposals Specialized Technical Monitoring Services



May 8, 2026:

1. RESOURCES SOURCE

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary partner countries, is providing total financing for the selection and hiring of a consulting firm that will provide Specialized Technical Monitoring Services to the BISP, within the framework of the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP) for which CABEI has approved the resources.

2. EXECUTING AND CONTRACTING AGENCY OF THE TENDER PROCESS

- 2.1. The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) is the Executing Agency of the Contracting Party. It intends to use a portion of the funds of this financing to make eligible payments under the Contract for which this invitation to Bid is being issued.
- 2.2. The Belize Integral Security Programme is responsible for this selection process, for which it invites eligible consulting firms to submit proposals to develop the consultancy.
- 2.3. The consulting firm will be selected through an international competition in accordance with the procedures of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration established in the Policy for the Obtaining of Goods, Works, Services, and Consultancies with CABEI Resources and its Norms for Application found on the following Website: <https://www.bcie.org>

3. PRESENTATION OF THE COMPETITION PROCESS

- 1.1. The General objective of the consultancy to be carried out is to provide Specialized Technical Monitoring Services to the BISP. The Contractor shall function as a dynamic element in the execution of the Program, serving as a link between the Executing Agency, the Executing Unit and CABEI, facilitating compliance with the Bank’s procedures and regulations, making available, when necessary, the appropriate personnel to carry out the required activities and promoting the streamlining of the processes associated with the Program, as well as the periodic monitoring of infrastructure projects and goods that require it.
- 1.2. The contractor makes available to interested parties all the documentation related to this consultancy that is necessary for the preparation of the proposals.
This information will be available free of charge:
 - a. Information package can be requested from the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP), Project Executing Unit, 1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit # 3, Belmopan City, at: technical_monitoring.bisp@met.gov.bz, and copy: projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz and adminassistant.bisp@met.gov.bz
- 1.3. Proposals must be sent to the address listed below no later than **June 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**
Submission of proposals electronically will not be permitted. Late proposals will not be accepted.

The proposals will be opened publicly, in the presence of the representatives designated by the bidders and any person who decides to attend, at the address indicated below, on **June 23, 2026, at 10:15 a.m.**

3.4 The address mentioned above is:

Elvis Requena
Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Programme Executing Unit
1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor

Belize Concludes Fourth WTO Trade Policy Review

“Belize’s reforms are anchored in its National Trade Policy, which incorporates gender as a cross-cutting element and aligns trade facilitation reforms and energy investments toward a common goal of building an inclusive, resilient, and competitive economy.” – WTO members

May 7, 2026 - The Government of Belize has successfully concluded its Fourth Trade Policy Review at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The review provided a comprehensive assessment of Belize’s trade policies aimed at promoting transparency, openness, and predictability in global trade. WTO members recognized the country’s resilience, steady economic recovery, and commitment to digital transformation and sustainable development.

The review highlighted Belize’s recovery and proactive response to climate and economic shocks. Despite COVID-19 and Hurricane Lisa, the country rebounded and continued to grow.

WTO members noted that Belize’s reforms are anchored in its National Trade Policy (NTP), which incorporates gender as a cross-cutting element and aligns trade facilitation reforms and



energy investments toward a common goal of building an inclusive, resilient, and competitive economy.

Members welcomed Belize’s ongoing efforts to modernize its trade regime, including progress toward implementing a Trade and Investment Electronic Single Window and reforms to the trade licensing framework aimed at enhancing efficiency and reducing costs.

Belize was also commended for its transition toward a digital and blue economy, including the Blue Bond initiative, partnerships that have trained over 1,000 women in digital skills, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact, which is expected to strengthen energy infrastructure

and the education system.

Key discussion points raised by WTO members focused on improving notification compliance, reducing trade costs, and strengthening institutional capacity. Belize acknowledged delays in some technical reporting requirements and reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing transparency and meeting its obligations.

Addressing these areas will improve transparency, strengthen investor confidence, reduce the cost of doing business, and enhance Belize’s overall competitiveness in global trade.

As next steps, Belize will implement a time-bound post-review workplan aimed at strengthening transparency, reducing trade costs, and advancing its digital agenda. In parallel, the Government will leverage its renewed permanent presence in Geneva to deepen engage-

ment and play a more active role in the multilateral trading system.

The Belizean delegation was led by H.E. Dr. Harold Young, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations Office in Geneva, supported by a technical team from the Directorate General for Foreign Trade, including Ms. Tricia Gideon, Deputy Director General, and Ms. Jessica Cuellar, Trade Economist.

Ambassador Young emphasized Belize’s resilience and called for continued international support for small and vulnerable economies, while members praised the review as constructive, transparent, and reflective of Belize’s positive trajectory. **(release)**



B.E.A.T. the Heat

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Easily identify the symptoms in infants and children and pregnant

Population	Milder symptoms (Treat at home)	Severe symptoms (Take to hospital immediately)
General signs 	• Dry lips/sticky mouth • Excessive thirst • Excessive sweating • Weakness /dizziness • Nausea/vomiting	• Confusion/not responding clearly/seizures/coma/not waking up • Very high body temperature for longer than 2 hours (40 °C/104 °F) • Fainting, • No urine in more than 8 hours or dark urine • Rapid heartbeat and breathing . • No sweating (but skin may be wet) is possible
Infants and children under three years 	• Heat rashes in diapered area • Irritated and/or crying	• May cry without tears • May be extremely irritable • Fewer wet diapers
Older children and adolescents 	• Expresses nausea • Expresses having headaches • Muscle cramps may occur (especially after exercising outside, which is common for this age group)	• Expressions of deep or severe muscle pain possible (especially after exercising outside, which is common for this age group)
Pregnant women 	• Heat rashes in body areas that are rubbing against each other are common • Muscle cramping is possible in stomach	• Very high body temperature (above 102 °F/39 °C) • Expresses extreme nausea • Contractions before they are expected • Swelling of body parts during heat season • Severe muscle cramping

Belize Participates Regional Meeting of Ministers of Labour



The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Immigration, Governance and Labour, participated in the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Labour of Central America and the Dominican Republic (CMT-CARD) held on April 23, 2026, in Panama City.

Belize was represented by Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Immigration, Governance and Labour, accompanied by Mr. Rudy Ake, Senior Labour Officer. The delegation actively engaged in discussions on key regional labour priorities and contributed to advancing a coordinated approach to the challenges facing the world of work.

The meeting brought together Ministers of Labour and technical representatives from across the region to review progress under the CMT-CARD Action Plan 2025–2027 and strengthen regional cooperation. Discussions focused on labour market development, labour inspection systems, labour migration, and institutional strengthening.

Ministers also examined emerging issues impacting the labour market, including the effects of digitalization and Artificial Intelligence, as well as the continued need to address child labour, particularly in vulnerable communities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ministers adopted a declaration reaffirming their commitment to strengthening regional collaboration, advancing decent work, and promoting inclusive and resilient labour markets. The declaration also emphasized the importance of resource mobilization, technical cooperation, and coordinated action to address shared labour challenges.

Belize joined its regional counterparts in endorsing the declaration and reaffirmed its commitment to advancing policies that promote decent work,

strengthen labour institutions, and protect vulnerable groups.

The meeting was convened under the Pro Tempore Presidency of Panama and builds on previous ministerial agreements, including those adopted in Punta Cana, which continue to guide the regional labour agenda.

The Government of Belize remains committed to active participation in regional initiatives that support sustainable development, improved labour conditions, and economic opportunity for all. (release)



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DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2026

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Remember to stay safe during Mass Gatherings



Feeling sick?
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Mass gatherings increase the risk of disease spread, such as respiratory and food-borne illness. Here are a few ways to limit infectious disease spread:



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve.



Wash your hands regularly with soap and clean water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.



Buy safe foods. Foods must be served either hot or cold. Avoid raw or undercooked food.



Do not drink and drive.



Use repellents to prevent mosquito bites.



Drink water and stay hydrated.



Practise safe sex.

BSIF – MoECST - GoB

A New Beginning for Early Childhood Education

Santa Cruz Government Preschool



The Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) is proud to highlight the successful technical handing over of the Santa Cruz Government Preschool in Santa Cruz Village, Orange Walk District.



This SIF III project is financed under a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Preschool-aged children from Santa Cruz and neighboring communities can now access a safe, nurturing, and purpose-built learning environment designed to support their early development.

BSIF, in collaboration with key stakeholders and the Ministry of Education, officially handed over the facility—marking an important step toward strengthening early childhood education in northern Belize.

With the community fully engaged and preparations already underway, all systems are go for the upcoming school year as the preschool gets ready to welcome its first cohort of young learners.

Investing in our children today, building Belize’s future tomorrow. (SIF Post)

Congratulations!

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*Elections and Boundaries Department
Old Land's Building
Market Square
City of Belmopan*



Telephone: 822-0525
Email: elections@electbound.gov.bz

Website: www.elections.gov.bz

Find us on "EBD Belize"

5th May 2026

NOTICE

VILLAGE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

Vacancy – San Joaquin Village Council, Corozal District

The general public is hereby notified that in accordance with Part III, Section 9 (1) (b) of the Village Council Act, Chapter 88 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020 and Section 3 of the Village Council (Elections) Regulation 2009, (Statutory Instrument 134 of 2009), has declared vacancy as follows:

Corozal District

Village	Position	Reason
San Joaquin	Member	Resignation of Jorge Sima

By-election – San Joaquin Village Council, Corozal District

The general public is hereby notified that in accordance with Section 3 of the Village Councils (Amendment) Act 2022, (Act No. 10 of 2022) and Rule 6A of the Village Council (Elections) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 (S.I. 65 of 2022), by-election will be held to fill vacancy for the village listed below:

Corozal District

Village Name	Nomination Date 31 st May 2026	Election Date 7 th June 2026
San Joaquin	Nomination Center	Polling Station
	Nominations open at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 12 midday	Polls open at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 5:00 p.m.
	Saint Francis Xavier RC School	San Joaquin RC School

~ End ~

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Voice of the Common Man

NHI IN A NUTSHELL: COVERAGE FOR ALL

By Hilly Bennett

‘Regarding cost of treatment, patients only pay 10% of the cost, while registered individuals over 60 years old pay nothing. Pregnant women and children under 5 are also exempted’

On February 19, 2026, contracts were signed with Loma Luz Adventist Hospital in Santa Elena, Cayo District and Clínica Santa María Hospital in Benque Viejo del Carmen under the National Health Insurance (NHI) Program. Celebrating 25 years in existence, the signing represented the complete countrywide rollout. At the time the Government noted in a release, “As Belize commemorates 25 years of National Health Insurance, these signings represent more than expansion; they embody a legacy of care, equity, and an unwavering commitment to health and dignity of every Belizean.” The release further noted that upon the NHI expansion nationwide, the program allows for quality, and affordable healthcare coverage to be more accessible to all Belizeans.

Quality delivery of NHI is embedded in its structure as was explained by Ms. Joan Burke in an interview on Channel 5 Open Your Eyes (OYE). Burke said “There are certain standards when it comes to the delivery of healthcare that we must maintain. There is an annual assessment that is done by NHI, and we look at one, the facility. There are specific criteria that must be met.” Certain standards must be met for service providers to qualify for the following contracts and strictures of a medical audit must be met. Additionally, the providers must ensure that they adhere to the national treatment protocols. The structure of the program holds the service providers accountable.

Regarding cost of treatment, patients only pay 10% of the cost, while registered individuals over 60 years old pay nothing. Pregnant women and children under 5 are also exempted.

In the dispensation of medication, it must be aligned with the national drug formulary. In stark contrast to the usual criticism, the pharmacy is never short of medication and the medication dispensed is of high quality from the formulary. Interestingly, the patients have a say with the annual patient satisfaction survey. Adhering to structures and protocols for the NHI program determine whether a contract for a



service provider is renewed. Service providers can also qualify for a bonus each year. But NHI is very specific regarding the breakdown of those bonuses. 80% goes back to staff, 10% to capacity building, and 10% returns to the facility. Service providers are trained annually, and there is a facility assessment to ensure who are supposed to be trained in basic life support (BLS). The structure is also number-of-doctors specific. There must be a full-time doctor for every 4,000-population, the requisite amount of doctors operating at the NHI institutions. However, the success of the program is dependent on money and is supported primarily through government general revenues. However, since the success of Fi We Boledo under the PUP, John Briceño-led administration, the Boledo has been contributing to NHI. For the fiscal period 2025-2026, profits from the Boledo has pumped approximately 17 million to the NHI program.

Although, the success of the program is being celebrated on its 25th year in existence, it was the present government that saw the rollout countrywide. Ms. Burke stated that recognition must be given to the PUP Government “*Because yes, whilst the rollout was in discussion for some time now, even with the previous administration, I think this present administration actually made it happen.*” Burke commended the creativity of identifying the source of fund through Boledo for additional funds necessary to support the noble initiative which began under the Said Musa Government. Originally, there were only four primary care providers, BFLA, Matron Roberts (government), Belize Healthcare Partners and Belize Medical Associates (private entities). Today there is service providers nationwide.

Consequently, the Government of Belize has delivered one of its most powerful mandates ‘Health care for All’. As the adage goes “A healthy society is wealthy society.”



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OFFICER

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460436-CS-INDV
Duration: Two (2) Years
Duty Station: Ministry of Natural Resources, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: May 29, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the “Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project” to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage the contractual services of a “**Policy Implementation and Monitoring Officer under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining**”.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-policy-implementation-and-monitoring-officer-individual-consultant-bz-ceu-460436-cs-indv-mof-2026/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref: Individual Consultancy – “PIM Officer” – Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project– [Applicant’s Name].



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE ADMINISTRATOR - MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, PETROLEUM AND MINING

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460214-CS-INDV
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining. Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: May 29, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the “Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project” to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage the contractual services of a “**National Spatial Data Infrastructure Administrator**” under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-national-spatial-data-infrastructure-administrator-individual-consultant-bz-ceu-460214-cs-indv-mof-2026/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref: Individual Consultancy – “NSDI Administrator” – Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project– [Applicant’s Name].

WORK CONTINUES IN 2026

PM John Briceño



RITMO DE ORO EVENT

Special Envoy Rossana Briceño



BLUE TEDDY CAMPAIGN DONATION

CTO's STC hosted by BTB



MIN'S MAHLER AND HABET PRESENTING

AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Min. Ferguson, Agriculture & Trade Show



A HIGHLIGHT: RODEO CATEGORY
WINNER, ITZ'AT STUDENT

Min. Kareem Musa (CS), Immigration, Labour & Governance



LABOUR FORCE PREP WORKSHOP

Minister Bernard, Health & Wellness



BELIZE-MEXICO VACCINATION
EFFORTS



AT 4B 37TH COUNCIL FOR
HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
(COHSOD)

Min. Henry C. Usher (FG), Public Service & Disaster Risk Management(NEMO)



W/ MAYOR NUÑEZ, IN AID OF FIRE
VICTIMS IN SAN PEDRO



W/ AREA REP. RAMON CERVANTES,
PREPARING OW NORTH

Belize City Council



LABOUR DAY CELEBRATION W/ STAFF



COMPLETE WORK ON STARFISH
CRESCENT

Punta Gorda TC w/ MIDH Help



REPAIRING BRIDGE AT CORNER CAYETANO
STREET & CEMETERY LANE

PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY

**'SEGUIMOS
MUY BIEN'**

BELIZE TRIGGERS ANTICIPATORY ACTION: SUPPORTING FARMERS AHEAD OF DROUGHT RISKS

It is undeniable that agriculture and agribusiness are integral components of the Belizean economy, serving as a major source of foreign exchange through traditional exports, including sugar, citrus, and bananas. Data for early 2026 indicates that the sector's contribution to GDP has expanded from BZ\$500 in previous years to BZ\$889.7 million. Additionally, the sector provides sources of income and livelihoods, employment and food security.

The successes of the agricultural industry were indicative of the announcement by the Government's press release announcing the increase in attendance at this year's National Agricultural and Trade Show (NATS) 2026, and the wide array of agricultural productive sectors on full display. An increase from the previous year by 6,000 visitors to 37, 833 registered visitors, delegates, and guests.

However, for this vital sector to thrive in Belize, it is dependent on adequate rainfall and a relatively stable year-round sub-tropical climate. Unfortunately,



ly, the Meteorological forecast for the upcoming farming season is projecting below-average rainfall. The government, along with the farmers, and industry stakeholders are bracing for the impacts of a long drought ahead. Historically, Belize has been vulnerable to hydroclimatic shocks, including droughts (previous occurrence in 2023-2024) and hurricanes (Lisa), which have resulted in agricultural losses, water shortages, and economic disruption.

After the below-average rainfall pronouncement the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and New Growth Industries, in collaboration with the National Meteorological Service, and the United Nations World Food Programs (WFP), an initiative two years in the making, has activated Belize's

Anticipatory Action (AA) mechanism. Pre-identified farmers in the Orange Walk, Corozal, and Cayo Districts will receive anticipatory cash assistance ahead of the forecasted drought. This early support will enable farmers to take proactive measures, such as investing in water-storage equipment, drought-tolerant seeds, or irrigation supplies, enabling them to protect their crops, safeguard their livelihoods, and reduce the impacts of the dry conditions before they occur.

In an article entitled 'Scaling up Anticipatory Action in Latin America and the Caribbean: Supporting nationally owned anticipatory systems to reduce impacts of climate shocks on food security' (January 2026) it suggests that "By acting based on predictable risks rather than waiting for needs to manifest anticipatory action (AA) mitigates unnecessary harm to vulnerable communities and can lessen the need for subsequent and costlier emergency response." Protecting instead of rebuilding is vital and a more pragmatic approach. In an echoing sentiment, Brian Bogart, Representative and Country Director of the World Food Programme Caribbean Multi-country Office said, "As climate risks intensify, acting early can mean the difference between a manageable shock, and a devastating crisis." Bogart added, "Anticipatory Action allows us to use scientific evidence to get ahead of drought

impacts, protect farmers' livelihoods, and reduce the long-term cost of disasters." According to the GOB release, "The development of the Anticipatory Action is timely as Belize continues to face increased climate pressures, including droughts, floods, and tropical storms, that threaten livelihoods, food security, and economic stability." In its conclusion, the release states that "This milestone has been made possible through the generous support of WFP's partners, including the Government of Canada, the European Union, the Government of Ireland, and the United States Government, whose contributions have supported the development of the Anticipatory Action mechanism and now allow Belize to take proactive, risk-informed action." Consequently, investment in anticipatory action ensures that resources reach the vulnerable communities early, reducing losses, protecting agricultural livelihoods, and strengthening national resilience in the face of more intense climate shocks. The triggering of the Anticipatory Action mechanism underscores that Belize continues to position itself at the forefront of innovative climate adaptation strategies to ensure that farmers are satisfactorily prepared to face the incoming challenges posed by the climatic events. -fin-

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REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete attached application form
- Transcript from previous educational institution
- Certificate from High School/ Associate degree in Science
- Social Security card
- Acceptance letter from
- Birth Certificate or Passport
- University
- Police Record
- Two Passport sized picture
- Reference letter from a teacher and employer
- Must be Belizean

Apply by: June 30, 2026



Government of BELIZE



CRIME FIGHTING

By Hon Gilroy Usher



- 1) Murder, theft, white collar crime, and gang banging
- 2) The reality of the poor where life is hard each day
- 3) Gated areas mainly learn of crime on the news or in talking
- 4) We should all enjoy a happy and prosperous life everyday



- 5) Maslow points to a society that's relatively crime free
- 6) Ensure access to food, water, sleep and shelter daily
- 7) Promote education, jobs, land reform as much as can be
- 8) Keep money at home by supporting local stores consistently



- 9) Criminals and some politicians exploit the poor with handouts
- 10) They also seek control of areas with drugs, guns, and trust
- 11) We must drastically transform ghettos to keep them out
- 12) Living wage, better policing, and more parks are a must



- 13) No to unjust enrichment, Motivate the poor to dream and soar
- 14) United we can drastically reduce the scourge of crime for sure

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of CHERYL LYNN GARCIA A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN PASCO A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN CHURCH, Deceased, of No. 125 Pioneer Lane, Valrico, Florida 33594, United States of America. NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the ESTATE of CHERYL LYNN GARCIA A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN PASCO A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN CHURCH deceased, of No. 125 Pioneer Lane, Valrico, Florida 33594, United States of America who died on the 22nd of May 2024 in whose estate a Grant of Administration has been granted to BELIZE FIDUCIARY SERVICES LIMITED, the lawful administrator of No. 35 Barrack Road, Belize City, Belize, on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months the said BELIZE FIDUCIARY SERVICES LIMITED shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said, CHERYL LYNN GARCIA A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN PASCO A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN CHURCH, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

DATED this 20th day of April 2026

GLENN D. GODFREY & COMPANY LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for
BELIZE FIDUCIARY SERVICES LIMITED
Administrator of the Estate of
CHERYL LYNN GARCIA A.K.A. CHERYL
LYNN PASCO A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN CHURCH

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the following companies has been struck off the Register of Companies and dissolved with effect from the date indicated:

Name of Company	Date
SHIN ASIA CO., LTD.	04 th May, 2026
CJ&C FASHION/FABRICS, INC.	04 th May, 2026

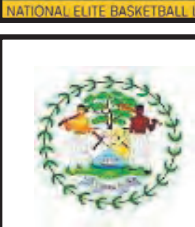
GenPro Consulting (Belize) Limited
Registered Agent



STANDINGS

MONDAY, MAY 4th
AFTER WEEK 10

TEAM NAME	GP	POINTS	WINS	LOSSES
1. BELIZE CITY DEFENDERS	9	16	7	2
2. CAYO WESTERN BALLAZ	9	15	6	3
3. ORANGE WALK RUNNING REBELS	8	14	6	2
4. SAN PEDRO TIGER SHARKS	7	12	5	2
5. GRIGA DREAM BALLERS	7	10	3	4
6. COROZAL SPARTANS	9	10	1	8
7. BELMOPAN TROJANS	9	10	1	8



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR - MINISTRY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES, PETROLEUM AND MINING

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460214-CS-INDV
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Natural Resources, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: May 29, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the “Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project” to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage the contractual services of a “National Spatial Data Infrastructure Assistant Administrator” under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-national-spatial-data-infrastructure-assistant-administrator-individual-consultant-bz-mfed-ceu-522973-cs-indv-mof-2026/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref: Individual Consultancy – “NSDI Assistant Administrator” – Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project– [Applicant’s Name].

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Day

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